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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A. JOHNSTON
DATE/CASE ID: 3 OCT 2001 20000441

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ALL POSTS FOR PAO; ROME FOR VATICAN; USSOCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KPAO
SUBJECT: WHA GUIDANCES, NOVEMBER 6, 2000

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS:

1. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, NOV 6 (PERU, VENEZUELA, EL SALVADOR, PERU/JORDAN)
 2. PRESS STATEMENT, NOV 6 (COSTA RICA)
- END SUMMARY.

WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, NOVEMBER 6, 2000:

-- PERU: UPDATE ON POLITICAL SITUATION --

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Q: COMMENT ON GOP INVESTIGATION INTO REPORTS EX-SPY CHIEF MONTESINOS HAS DOLS 48 MILLION IN SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS? SUSPICIONS THIS WAS EARNED THROUGH MONEY-LAUNDERING, ILLEGAL DRUG AND ARMS SALES?

A: THESE ARE SERIOUS CHARGES AND MUST BE INVESTIGATED THOROUGHLY. WE WELCOME THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU'S DECISION TO APPOINT AN INDEPENDENT SPECIAL PROSECUTOR TO INVESTIGATE THESE CHARGES, AND THE SWISS INITIATIVE IN INVESTIGATING WHAT COULD BE MONEY-LAUNDERING IN THESE ACCOUNTS. WE UNDERSTAND THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU HAS ALSO APPOINTED PROSECUTORS TO EXAMINE SEPARATE CHARGES AGAINST MR. MONTESINOS OF CORRUPTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

THESE ACTIONS ARE POSITIVE SIGNS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU IS SERIOUS ABOUT SEVERING ALL TIES TO MR. MONTESINOS AND TREATING HIM AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN SUBJECT TO THE LAWS OF PERU.

Q: HAS THE US BEEN ASKED TO COOPERATE IN THIS INVESTIGATION?

A: WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST FROM EITHER THE PERUVIAN OR THE SWISS GOVERNMENT ON THIS INVESTIGATION. HOWEVER, WE ARE PREPARED TO COOPERATE FULLY IF WE DO RECEIVE SUCH A REQUEST.

Q: COMMENT ON GOP REPORTS MONTESINOS HAS BEEN LOCATED? IS THERE A WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST?

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A: THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU HAS STATED THAT IT HAS LOCATED THE AREA WHERE MR. MONTESINOS IS BELIEVED TO BE HIDING. THE
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PROSECUTOR INVESTIGATING THE MONEY-LAUNDERING CHARGES HAS SAID HE EXPECTS TO ISSUE AN ARREST WARRANT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. ONCE THAT WARRANT IS ISSUED, WE EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU WILL ACT IMMEDIATELY TO TAKE MR. MONTESINOS INTO CUSTODY.

Q: UPDATE ON REBELLION OF ARMY LIEUTENANT COLONEL, REPORTS THAT RESERVISTS HAVE JOINED HIS CAUSE?

A: THE PROTEST ACTION BY A SINGLE MILITARY UNIT IN SOUTHERN PERU APPEARS TO BE AN ISOLATED INCIDENT INVOLVING A DISGRUNTLED ARMY LIEUTENANT COLONEL, COLONEL HUMALA. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE REPORTS THAT UP TO 100 UNARMED ARMY RESERVISTS ARE TRYING TO JOIN COL. HUMALA, THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE-DUTY SOLDIERS SUPPORTING THE ACTION HAS DWINDLED TO A HANDFUL AND COLONEL HUMALA HAS REPORTEDLY AGREED TO NEGOTIATE WITH PERU'S HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN ON POSSIBLE CONDITIONS FOR SURRENDER.

THE PERUVIAN ARMY HAS CONDEMNED COLONEL HUMALA'S INSUBORDINATION AND SENT UNITS TO ARREST HIM AND HIS REMAINING FOLLOWERS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ACTION WAS TAKEN OVER THE WEEKEND TO RETIRE COLONEL HUMALA, SO THAT HE IS NO LONGER A MEMBER OF THE PERUVIAN ARMY.

Q: WHAT ABOUT STATEMENTS BY THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION PRAISING THE ACTIONS BY THE ARMY LIEUTENANT COLONEL? DOESN'T THIS SHOW THAT FUJIMORI'S PRESIDENCY IS ILLEGITIMATE AND HE SHOULD STEP DOWN NOW?

A: WHILE WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE ELECTORAL PROCESS WHICH
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RETURNED PRESIDENT FUJIMORI TO OFFICE WAS DEEPLY FLAWED, PRESIDENT FUJIMORI HAS TAKEN SEVERAL POSITIVE STEPS OVER THE PAST WEEKS TOWARDS RESTORING DEMOCRACY. WE EXPECT PRESIDENT FUJIMORI TO UPHOLD HIS COMMITMENT TO HOLD NEW ELECTIONS, IN WHICH HE WILL NOT RUN, AND TO STEP DOWN IN JULY WHEN A NEW PRESIDENT IS INAUGURATED.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE PERUVIAN POLITICAL OPPOSITION CONTINUES TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE OAS-SPONSORED TALKS ON DEMOCRATIC

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REFORM. APRIL 8, 2001 HAS BEEN AGREED UPON AS THE DATE FOR NEW ELECTIONS AND DISCUSSION NOW FOCUSES ON REFORMS TO THE ELECTORAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS.

-- VENEZUELA: LEGAL STATUS OF THE GULF OF VENEZUELA --

Q: WHAT IS THE US VIEW OF VENEZUELA'S CLAIM THAT THE GULF OF VENEZUELA IS ENTIRELY WITHIN ITS TERRITORY?

A: VENEZUELA AND THE UNITED STATES APPEAR TO DISAGREE ON THE STATUS OF WATERS OF THE GULF OF VENEZUELA. WE BELIEVE THERE IS A RIGHT OF FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN MOST OF THE WATERS OF THE GULF.

VENEZUELA AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE AGREED TO DISCUSSIONS TO CLARIFY OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS AND TO IMPROVE MARITIME COUNTER-NARCOTICS COOPERATION.

IF NEEDED:

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ON OCTOBER 21, THE U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER RELIANCE WAS CONDUCTING A ROUTINE MARITIME COUNTER-NARCOTICS OPERATION IN THE GULF OF VENEZUELA, PURSUANT TO ITS RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN THOSE WATERS.

OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE EXCHANGED SEVERAL DIPLOMATIC NOTES REGARDING THE RELIANCE. WE AGREED TO MEET TO DISCUSS COUNTERNARCOTICS COOPERATION.

-- EL SALVADOR: CHURCHWOMEN'S MURDER
CIVIL SUIT VERDICT --

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE VERDICT IN FAVOR OF GENERALS GARCIA AND VIDES?

A: THE STATE DEPARTMENT REITERATES ITS SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS FOR THE LOSS OF THEIR LOVED-ONES TO THE HORRIBLE CRIMES THAT WERE THE SUBJECT OF THIS CASE. HOWEVER, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO COMMENT ON THIS VERDICT.

-- PERU: EX-INTELLIGENCE ADVISER MONTESINOS' LINKS
TO ARMS TRAFFICKING TO COLOMBIAN GUERRILLAS --

Q: COMMENT ON STATEMENTS BY ARMS DEALER SARKIS SOGHANALIAN THAT FORMER PERUVIAN SPY CHIEF MONTESINOS BROKERED THE SALE

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OF WEAPONS FROM JORDAN TO PERU, AND THEN DIVERTED THEM TO
THE COLOMBIAN FARC GUERRILLAS?

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A: THERE HAVE BEEN ALLEGATIONS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES THAT
MR. MONTESINOS FACILITATED THIS ARMS SMUGGLING RING. THIS
IS AN ISSUE FOR THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN PERU TO HANDLE
AND WE WELCOME THE DECISION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU TO
APPOINT SPECIAL PROSECUTORS TO INVESTIGATE VARIOUS CHARGES
AGAINST MR. MONTESINOS, INCLUDING CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AND
MONEY-LAUNDERING. WE WILL FOLLOW THESE INVESTIGATIONS
CLOSELY.

Q: WAS PRESIDENT FUJIMORI AWARE OF THIS ARMS DEAL?
DIDN'T HE AND MONTESINOS WORK HAND IN HAND?

A: WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY EVIDENCE LINKING PRESIDENT
FUJIMORI TO THIS SALE. THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU HAS STATED
THAT THE PURCHASERS OF THE WEAPONS MISREPRESENTED THEMSELVES
AS AGENTS OF THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT AND USED FORGED
DOCUMENTS STATING THAT THE PERUVIAN MILITARY WAS THE
INTENDED END USER.

Q: COMMENTS ON REPORTS THE CIA KNEW ABOUT THIS ARMS DEAL
AND DID NOT INFORM THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A: WE DO NOT COMMENT ON MATTERS RELATING TO INTELLIGENCE
ACTIVITIES.

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT USG KNOWLEDGE OF THIS SALE?

A: PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF THE CONTRACT, THE JORDANIAN
GOVERNMENT ASKED THE UNITED STATES WHETHER WE WOULD OBJECT
TO WHAT THE JORDANIANS BELIEVED WAS A LEGITIMATE ARMS SALE
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU. WE HAD NO REASON AT THAT TIME TO
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BELIEVE THE SALE WAS ILLEGITIMATE.

SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF
PERU WAS NOT THE INTENDED END USER AND THAT THE SALE WAS
THEREFORE ILLEGITIMATE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AS SOON AS THE
JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT BECAME AWARE OF A PROBLEM, IT ACTED
QUICKLY TO TERMINATE THE CONTRACT. INFORMATION REGARDING
THE SALE WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PERUVIAN
AUTHORITIES. ARRESTS THEN TOOK PLACE.

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Q: DID THE USG CONSULT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU PRIOR TO THE SALE?

A: THE U.S. HAD NO REASON TO CONSULT PERU ABOUT THESE THIRD PARTY SALES. IT WOULD BE BEST TO INQUIRE OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT OF THEIR OWN CONSULTATIONS. WE DO NOT BROKER ARMS SALES BETWEEN FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WHEN U.S. ARMS ARE NOT INVOLVED. WE HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE AT THE TIME OF THE SALE THAT THE TRANSACTION SHOULD BE QUESTIONED.

Q: DID YOU KNOW THE ARMS WERE BEING SUPPLIED TO THE FARC? DID YOU ADVISE THE COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES?

A: AS ALREADY NOTED, WE DID NOT KNOW THE TRUE DESTINATION OF THE ARMS WHEN CONSULTED ABOUT THE CASE. WE HAVE BEEN AND REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH COLOMBIA, AS WELL AS PERU AND JORDAN, ON THIS ISSUE. AS THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS STATED, IT HAS BEEN TRACKING THE SOURCE OF THE ARMS USED BY THE FARC AND OTHER ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS FOR SOME TIME.

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2. FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, NOVEMBER 6, 2000:

NO.2000/1190
STATEMENT BY RICHARD BOUCHER, SPOKESMAN

-- COSTA RICAN AUTHORITIES ARREST ALIEN SMUGGLER
GLORIA NIO CANALES --

WE CONGRATULATE THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA ON THE ARREST NOVEMBER 1 OF NOTORIOUS ALIEN SMUGGLING KINGPIN GLORIA ABIGAIL NIO CANALES ON CORRUPTION AND FRAUDULENT DOCUMENT CHARGES. THE ARREST WAS THE RESULT OF AN INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION BY COSTA RICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT.

WE APPLAUD COSTA RICA'S COMMITMENT TO FIGHTING THE SCOURGE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING. WE HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD ON THIS SUCCESS.

THE GROWING CRIMINAL INDUSTRY OF ALIEN SMUGGLING IS OF INCREASING CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES. ALIEN SMUGGLERS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PLIGHT OF DESPERATE PEOPLE WITHOUT REGARD FOR THEIR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. WE ENCOURAGE COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD TO RAISE THIS ISSUE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. WE ENCOURAGE ALL NATIONS TO SIGN THE PROTOCOLS ON ALIEN SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

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